



Canada's Agri-Food Exporters Accompany Minister Carr on Trade Diversification Mission to Dynamic Asian Markets

June 10, 2019

Brian Innes, President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today issued the following statement on the conclusion of the trade mission to Japan and South Korea led by the Honourable Jim Carr, Canada's Minister of Trade Diversification. The mission promoted Canadian agri-food exports and coincided with the G20 Ministerial Meeting in Tsukuba, Japan where WTO reform discussions took place.

"As a direct result of the tariff free access we have to these dynamic Asia-Pacific markets, we've got a bright future throughout the region and an immense opportunity to significantly grow our agri-food exports.

"I've seen first-hand how our exporters are reaping the benefits of trade agreements in both Japan and South Korea. It's exciting to see trade agreements deliver results and allow us to diversify our exports in a meaningful way. I've heard over and over during our conversations with customers that Canada's preferential access is providing real gains for our agri-food exporters.

"After only a few short months since the Comprehensive and Progressive agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership came into effect, our agri-food exports to Japan are already up 12 per cent over the same period last year. Canada has overtaken the US as the top supplier of pork to Japan, and according to Statistics Canada, the value of our beef exports is up 117 per cent compared to the same period last year. And since 2015 when Canada's free trade agreement with South Korea became law, agri-food exports have increased by over 20 per cent.

"We thank Minister Carr for his clear commitment to diversifying Canada's trade portfolio, as well as Minister Jeremy Harrison of Saskatchewan and Minister Tanya Fir of Alberta, and Member of Parliament Dean Alison, the vice chair of the Standing Committee on International Trade for their leadership in representing Canada on this mission. Today's success is built on the foundation of solid relationships, and today we ensured Canada's reputation remains strong.

"We are also pleased that Canada continues to play a leadership role in WTO reform discussions that continued this week on the margins of G20 meetings. We fully support efforts to keep the world's trading system fair, predictable and rules-based.

"Simply put, the status quo is not an option. Maintaining and modernizing the multilateral trading system is critical for Canada's agri-food exporters. The WTO must continue function and must reform in order to remain credible and relevant. We urge all members to safeguard and strengthen the WTO dispute-settlement mechanism and to resolve the current impasse in appointments to the WTO Appellate Body.

“For agri-food exporters, it’s vital that we deepen Canada’s trade relationships in Asia and ensure rules-based trade prevails. We will continue to support efforts that stand up for these principles.”

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CAFTA ACCA

Canadian Agri-Food
Trade Alliance

Alliance canadienne
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CAFTA is the voice of Canadian agriculture and agri-food exporters, representing the 90% of farmers who depend on trade and the ranchers, producers, processors and agri-food exporters who want to grow the economy through better access to international markets. This includes the beef, pork, meat, grains, cereals, pulses, soybeans, canola as well as the sugar, malt, and processed food industries. The sectors CAFTA represents support over a million jobs in urban and rural communities across Canada.

NOTE TO MEDIA:

CAFTA President Brian Innes will be available for media one-on-one interviews on the ground in Japan or by telephone with Canadian-based media. To set up an interview please contact:

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